

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Action dated March 4, 2004. In order to advance prosecution of the present Application, Claims 1, 11, and 16 have been amended. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this Application.

Claims 1 and 6-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis in view of Somasundaram, et al. Independent Claims 1 and 11 recite in general the ability to capture information immediately prior to and immediately subsequent to a triggering event with information is continuously captured in a first set of blocks of a memory array prior to the triggering event and information is captured in a second set of blocks of the memory array subsequent to the triggering event while maintaining the information in the first set of blocks of the memory array. By contrast, the Davis patent does not disclose the use of first and second blocks in a memory for capturing information prior to and subsequent to a triggering event as provided in the claimed invention.. The Somasundaram, et al. patent does not include an on-chip trace recorder capable of capturing any information associated with a triggering event. Support for the above recitation can be found at page 13, line 15, to page 14, line 19, of Applicant's specification. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1 and 6-15 are patentably distinct from the proposed Davis - Somasundaram, et al. combination.

Claims 2-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis in view of Somasundaram, et al. and further in view of Voith, et al. Independent Claim 1, from which Claims 2-5 depend, has been shown above to be patentably distinct from the proposed Davis - Somasundaram, et

al. combination. Moreover, the Voith, et al. patent does not include any additional disclosure combinable with either the Davis or Somasundaram, et al. patents that would be material to patentability of these claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 2-5 are patentably distinct from the proposed Davis - Somasundaram, et al. - Voith, et al. combination.

Claims 16-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis in view of Somasundaram, et al. and further in view of Microsoft Computer Dictionary. Independent Claim 16 includes a similar limitation discussed above and shown to be patentably distinct from the proposed Davis - Somasundaram, et al. combination. Moreover, the Microsoft Computer Dictionary does not include any additional disclosure combinable with either the Davis or Somasundaram, et al. patents that would be material to patentability of these claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 16-20 are patentably distinct from the proposed Davis - Somasundaram, et al. - Microsoft Computer Dictionary combination.

The present Response to Examiner's Final Action is necessary to address new grounds of rejection, new cited art, and new interpretations raised by the Examiner. This Response to Examiner's Final Action could not have been presented earlier as the Examiner has only now raised these issues.

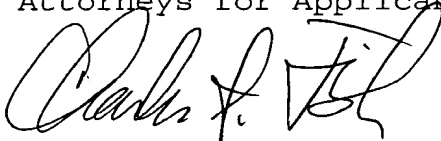
Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place the Application in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and full allowance of Claims 1-20.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any amount required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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